



vodafone

Public sector budgets

resources roundup

News, views and insight from around the web

“We’re very much in the environment where the norm is austerity, efficiencies and effectiveness within a restrained financial budget is the way that everybody is living just now. So the change that we were trying to gently introduce, all of a sudden becomes an imperative.”

Linda Robertson, Programme Manager, Fife Council





Public sector budgets resources

Pulling together: public finance

Are shared services the cure for the funding crisis? This article from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) unpicks the arguments.

PSN: rethinking how public services operate and deliver

In addressing the need to cut costs, the public sector is exploring new ways of purchasing services. The Public Service Network is one such approach.

Stretching public sector budgets through government cost reduction

Most public sector organisations are searching for every possible saving. In this report, Accenture identifies seven procurement initiatives it believes are fundamental to success.

The era of austerity could last until 2018

With the immediate demands to cut costs, it can be difficult to gain a broader picture for the years ahead. This article focuses on an Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) analysis of where we are and where we're going.

Rewiring public services

While it's tempting to make knee-jerk reactions to budget cuts, planning still needs a long term strategic approach. This paper from the LGA sets out a vision for financial sustainability that could also help transform key services.

"It is pretence to claim that the £6.5bn cut from government grants (28% in real terms) can be made up through improved efficiency and productivity with no impact on services, but that still doesn't stop people from saying it."

Oct 2012

Read the full article >
<http://bit.ly/17t4ZvY>

"As well as saving cash on ICT in the short term, by 2014 central government departments alone could be saving up to £130m a year because of the PSN."

July 2012

Read the full report >
<http://bit.ly/11jv3e2>

"The clear conclusion is that government procurement operations can use cloud-based solutions to make new economies, tools, applications, infrastructures, service innovations and consistent approaches available to more people, departments, partners and citizens."

Aug 2012

Read the full report >
<http://bit.ly/11RK9mu>

"The key issue for the underlying health of the public finances is whether this weaker economic performance reflects weaker trend output or whether it is felt to be temporary."

Nov 2012

Read the full article >
<http://bit.ly/18etPOL>

"We think that the challenges that the country faces require a different approach reflecting the local needs of communities, based on joined up services, economic vitality and a new democratic deal."

July 2013

Read the full article >
<http://bit.ly/17VzwGC>





Further resources from us...

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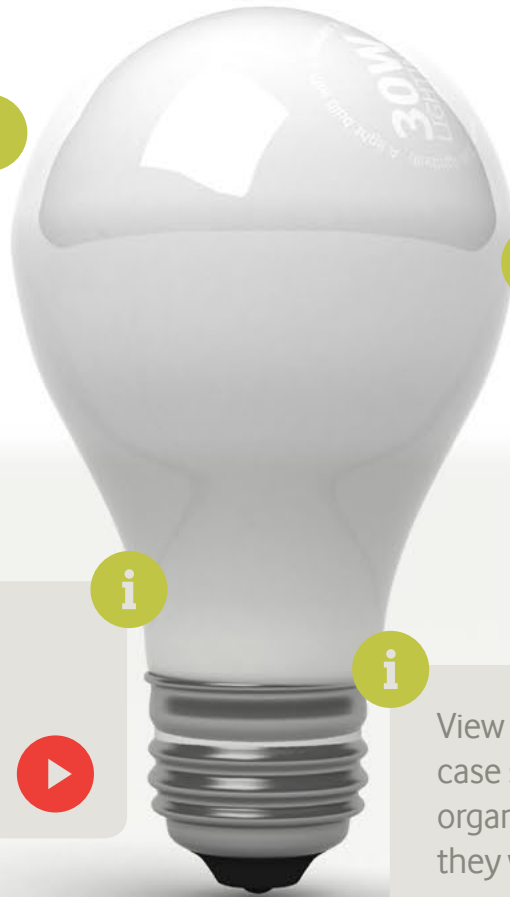
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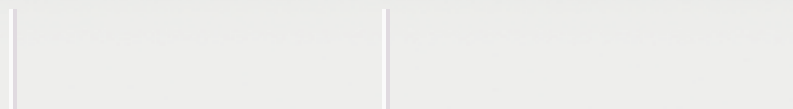




In summary: the changing face of public sector budgets

Read anything about the public sector and sooner or later (probably sooner) it'll mention the squeeze on budgets. With year-on-year decreases in funding and rising public expectations, today's public service organisations are under more pressure than ever before.

Many have already cut where they can and now face some tough choices on the services they need to provide. Others are experimenting with new models for service delivery, new ways of buying services and new partnerships. Our selected resources offer an overview of some of the key challenges and issues facing the sector.





Core themes in public sector budgets

While every organisation is different a number of themes stood out:

We're in this for the long haul

No one is under any illusions that the 'age of austerity' is likely to come to an end any time soon. Budget planning is now based upon the expectation of a continued reduction in available funding lasting through to 2018 (and probably beyond).

Cuts alone aren't enough

Many organisations have already made significant cuts to their spending. They are now faced with the choice of either doing less things or doing things differently. This is leading to some interesting experimentation about what it means to deliver public services.

Spending is getting smarter

Of course, even with budget cuts, the public sector must still spend money to get things done. Now, however, organisations are looking at how they can spend more effectively using frameworks such as the PSN and by combining their spending power with others.



About Vodafone and the public sector

We work throughout the public sector right across the UK, helping organisations improve their processes, change the way they use physical spaces and enable their staff to do their best work. Ultimately, we help them meet real and pressing challenges with innovative, positive solutions.



[Learn more about how we can help you meet your challenges >](#)



How did we do?

3-click feedback form

This was:

- ☐ Great – I'd happily recommend it to a friend or colleague
- ☐ Average – it was interesting information, I learned something
- ☐ Poor – I didn't see the value in any of this

Tell us what we did well and what we can improve next time:

Thanks for your time.

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